

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Patent Application No
PCT/GB2004/002662

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C22C9/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C22C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 399 057 A (DOUGLAS BROWN ET AL) 27 August 1968 (1968-08-27) column 5 - column 6; example 13; table III column 7 - column 8; example 22; table V claims	4-6
A	US 5 164 157 A (CLARK CHARLES A ET AL) 17 November 1992 (1992-11-17) column 2, line 4 - column 3, line 41 claims	4-6
A	SU 532 497 A (ARAVIN B P) 25 October 1976 (1976-10-25) the whole document -/-	4-6

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

8 document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

5 October 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/10/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	& DATABASE WPI Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 1977-824772Y & SU 532 497 A (ARAVIN B P) 25 October 1976 (1976-10-25) abstract -----	
A	SU 456 018 A (ANDREEV G N) 5 January 1975 (1975-01-05) the whole document & DATABASE WPI Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 1975-65223W & SU 456 018 A (ANDREEV G N) 5 January 1975 (1975-01-05) abstract -----	4-6
A	GB 1 161 615 A (LANGLEY ALLOYS LIMITED) 13 August 1969 (1969-08-13) the whole document -----	4-6
A	GB 999 438 A (LANGLEY ALLOYS LTD) 28 July 1965 (1965-07-28) the whole document -----	4-6

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: -

Present claims 1-3, 7-10 relate to an extremely large number of possible indefinite alloys. Indeed, the claimed composition is not closed, i.e. not defined up to 100%, since only the Ni and Al ranges are specified, leaving then up to 76.9 wt% of the claimed alloy undefined. This implies that present claims 1-3, 7-10 encompass alloys with a composition having further elements not yet mentioned, at possible high contents, with unknown and possible adverse effects. As a result, the claims contain so many options and variables that a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claims impossible.

The same arises for claims 11 and 12 which refer to examples of the description leaving the claimed composition totally opened. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear, namely claims 4-6.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3399057	A	27-08-1968	NONE	
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			AU 5276590 A	22-10-1990
			CA 2047719 A1	18-09-1990
			EP 0463052 A1	02-01-1992
			WO 9011381 A1	04-10-1990
			JP 2512235 B2	03-07-1996
			JP 4503832 T	09-07-1992
			NO 913650 A	16-09-1991
SU 532497	A	25-10-1976	SU 532497 A1	25-10-1976
SU 456018	A	05-01-1975	SU 456018 A1	05-01-1975
GB 1161615	A	13-08-1969	NONE	
GB 999438	A	28-07-1965	DE 1458429 A1	20-02-1969